

CHIRADDIKULAM THEATRE WORKSHOP VII: August 20, 2012

Location: Chiraddikulam Community Centre

Key Contact: Major Lalith Edirisinghe

Age group: 9-11

7 girls

Thihalnila, Janusiya, Thibadharshini, Yalini, Loheswari, Vanoja, Pavithra,

10 boys

Thihalvannan, Thuraichelvan, Sarujan, Kumanadas, Sarmeehan, Anosanth, Sathurjan, Prasadh, Mayuran, Vinodh

Programme:

Dog and the Bone

Essay: My favourite story

Colombian Hypnosis

Mirror Game

Group shapes

Drawing activity: My favourite festival

Janusiya has hung around two previous workshops – apparently she was visiting! So I asked her to join in on this one. We started off with one of their favourite games, Dog and the Bone (the other one is Fruit Bowl), and moved on to essay-writing. I'm not sure they completely understood the prompt to write their favourite story – many started writing their own! But I decided not to correct them, and let them continue on the trajectories they'd begun.

They were much more successful this week at Colombian Hypnosis and the Mirror Game, and are generally better-controlled than the kids at Kakkaiyankulam, but lack the freedom with which the K'kulam kids use space. There was a marked difference, especially, in the way the Ch'kulam kids responded to the Making Shapes game. While the Kakkayankulam kids had self-organised admirably quickly, and were very creative in the shapes they created, the Ch'kulam kids were reticent, waiting for me to tell them exactly what to do. It took the a long time to make the simple shapes, and they only succeeded with a lot of help.

We ended the session with a drawing activity, focusing on their favourite festival. I noticed the children wanted to draw flowers and fruit (which they have already mastered). While I was tempted to let them do what they wanted, and give them a 'good time', I also felt it was necessary to have them search a bit in their minds for memories/images of different things, so I ended up being a bit strict about the given topic. I thought that the Chiraddikulam children might need an extra few workshops (which is why I carried out this one), but now I feel instead that interaction with the Kakkaiyankulam kids will let the best of all kids rub off on each other. Children learn by watching and doing, and I think I will see more progress from the Building Bridges Workshops. However, these initial workshops have definitely served their purpose in gaining trust – the retention rate is quite good, and even Prasadh who stalked out after being pulled up by Maheshwari came back (and seems to try very hard to do what I tell him!).

See pg 2 for photos



Making Shapes: Tree



Making Shapes: Bicycle